



# First Church of Christ, Congregational United Church of Christ

## September 2018 Newsletter



### Pastor's Message

#### ***Journey with Luke: a Year-Long Pilgrimage***

This church year, I am setting off on a year-long sermon series called "Journey with Luke." For the whole year, I will be preaching on the Gospel of Luke. Why Luke? There are several reasons. Primarily, I want to give worshippers an even deeper understanding of what a Gospel is all about: who wrote it and when, what kind of church was he writing it for? Each of the Gospels is a story about Jesus: his life, teachings, miracles, confrontations, trials, death and resurrection. Yet each Gospel tells the story of Jesus differently. Some add their own particular stories while leaving out others. Various writers will tell the same story, but in a different way. This is especially true for Luke.

Another reason is that Luke's vision of Jesus and his ministry has very strong implications for our church, our personal lives of faith and the world we live in. Luke wrote his Gospel to a very specific church with very specific questions, worries and hopes. Even though this church existed long ago in a totally different culture than our own, in many ways we share so much. Luke was portraying a Jesus with deep concerns for the poor, the stranger, the oppressed and cast out. More than any other gospel, Luke's Jesus is poor and humble and calls his followers to a life of poverty and humility.

The church which Luke addresses was a mixture of very different types of people from all walks of life. There were pious Jews who understood Christianity as a new form of Judaism. But there were also Gentiles – non-Jews - who knew

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### Nurture's Message

We are excited for a new year of church school, youth group, intergenerational activities, adult fellowships, Wonderful Wednesdays, 8:15 group! This year we come back focused on our mission to welcome all, grow in faith, and joyfully serve. Nurture largely focuses on growing in faith. But we all know growing in faith is not limited to Sunday school. We grow in faith through our service, and through all kinds of small moments. This year we want to challenge ourselves to grow in faith through welcoming all. We hope that no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey there is a nurture program for you. Our big fall event is a Blessing of the Animals service where we hope to welcome humans and animals alike (details inside). To extend our spirit of welcome, we encourage you to invite your friends and neighbors to this special outdoor worship service.

*~ Kate Byers*

### **Homecoming Sunday and Cookout after Church - September 9th**

Join us on **September 9th** for worship as we return to the Sanctuary and celebrate the start of a great year of ministry here at First Church with an old fashioned Homecoming Sunday!

After worship, we will go to the church steps for our annual photo, and then move to the Church parking lot for a cookout. Hot dogs and ice cream will be provided, bring a side to share. In addition to food, there will be games for people of all ages. Some games will test your ability to work as a team, others will test your physical abilities, while some will just be fun. From egg races, to bubbles and hopscotch. There should be some old fashioned fun for everyone.

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that Jesus' message is meant for all people. Luke was a "Welcome All" Gospel writer. His Gospel announced that in the church, there is room for all people from all different cultures and walks of life, with a wide variety of beliefs, to live together, united in Spirit. This is just one example - there are so many other ways that Luke's message reaches out to us and demands a response.

Finally, Luke is probably the best storyteller of all the Gospels. His writing, in ancient Greek, is considered one of the most beautiful works in ancient literature. He knows how to spin a compelling story, with a message that is undeniable. There are many beloved and essential Bible stories that only are told by Luke, like the Good Samaritan, the Prodigal Son and the Road to Emmaus. And it doesn't just stop with Luke. The Gospel is just the first volume. His story continues with the Acts of the Apostles. Luke has tremendous vision and understanding not just about who Jesus is and why he's so important, but what does it mean to continue Jesus' mission as the Church.

I know that it's almost a cliché in "church language" to use the word "journey." But this is what Luke, like any other great storyteller, does – he takes you on a journey, that leads through the highs and lows, with great joy and glory as well as tragedy and pain. He takes us through life and death and resurrection and beyond. I invite you on this journey. In addition to Sunday morning, there will be many other opportunities to get to know Luke better. Take advantage of all these opportunities. Join us in this epic pilgrimage of faith!

~ Pastor John

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### **Save the Date!** **Adult Retreat – November 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>**

"Finding Stillness in the Storm" Whether its news from the world or Washington, or our personal struggles with work, relationships or health issues, many of us are living in the midst of a storm, that often seems to be threatening our lives and our world. Pastor John is looking to hold a retreat from Friday evening to Saturday afternoon to help you develop some spiritual resources for getting through the stormy times. If you are interested in attending or helping, please let him know.

### **Bible and Bagels and Luke!**

After a great start last year, Pastor John will be continuing his "Bible and Bagels" Bible Study, starting on **Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.** This year, Bible and Bagels will be coordinated with the "Journey with Luke" sermon series during the year. Each session, will be an opportunity to "talk back" about last week's sermon as well as learning more about the upcoming sermon. We will delve deeper into Luke: his background, his writing style and his faith.

Bible and Bagels (and Luke) will meet on Thursday mornings from 8 to 9 a.m. at Bruegger's Bagels on Great Road. This is a drop-in bible study: show up anytime - no prior knowledge of the Bible is necessary. This is a "low stress" Bible Study aimed at those who don't know much about the Bible, but are curious to learn more.

So join us and get your day started right, with a good dose of inspiration. And bring a friend, too!

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### **Coffee and Conversation and Bible Study at Bruegger's - An Hour Earlier**

For a fourth year, Pastor John will be continuing his "Coffee and Conversation" this fall. He will be at Brueggers Bagels on Great Road on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. He will be there to talk about anything you want: your faith, an issue you're struggle with, a joy you want to share or whatever is happening in your life.

Many people wonder how people come to Coffee and Conversations. It really depends. Sometimes, Pastor John has many people, other times, nobody. Sometimes people make an appointment while other times people show up to Bruegger's and realize he's there and come to chat. Sometimes he will be talking to long-time parishioners while other times strangers come to the table and strike up a conversation. No matter what, Pastor John feels like it's a blessing to be there. He's had some of the deepest conversations of his life at Bruegger's. Other times, it's a light, fun, quick chat. No matter what, he always has something to do, just in case nobody shows up, but is ready and willing to put it all aside whenever someone drops by.

If you've never come, give it a try. He'd love to hear what's on your mind!

## The Tree of Life

The Visual Choir has been busy this summer! Last Spring, Pastor John was thinking of a new type of banner to hang in the Sanctuary. He was thinking of a general nature-oriented theme and came up a “The Tree of Life” theme. He had seen many different trees of life in Christian art over the years and it seemed to make sense to give it a try.

Kathy Konkle, our “resident artist” loved the idea and started to ask questions. Where did the tree of life appear in the Bible? Are there any significant quotes associated with it? After some research, John found that it showed up both at the beginning and the end of the Bible. In Genesis, the tree of life fed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, giving them eternal life. After they were driven out of the Garden, they lost their chance for eternal life.

Then, in the book of Revelation, the tree of life is at the center of “the New Jerusalem” that comes down from heaven to earth. In this new Jerusalem, God resides with humans, and there is no more weeping or tears or pain. The gates of the new Jerusalem are open and all nations come through. The tree of life is in the middle, with rivers flowing out of it. Revelation says that “leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.”

Kathy and I liked this quote and decided to include it in the banner. Kathy came up with many great designs, and we chose one. We got two huge pieces of green paper, traced her design to the paper and cut the banner out on two Wednesdays this summer. Many thanks to all who spent hours with exact knives, turning a plain piece of paper into a work of art!

Throughout this process, we came to realize that the Tree of Life started to have more meaning than we originally thought. One person made sure we kept all the paper leaves we cut out of the banner. This seemed very important to do. Revelation is a vision of the future, a time when warfare and battles are ended, when there is peace and unity among all people. This seems like a vision we desperately need in our times. If there is any times when the nations need healing, it is now.

But perhaps this is also about the here and now. Many people understand Jesus as the tree of life and we, the people of the church, are called to be the leaves, each one of us to work, in our own small but important way, for the healing of the nations. These banners, then, really turn out to be prayers. Prayers of hope for God to heal our divisions, wars and pain. Also prayers of commitment, asking God to make us vehicles of peace and reconciliation.

The two matching banners will be up in the sanctuary for homecoming Sunday on September 9<sup>th</sup>. The visual choir hopes that it enhances everyone’s worship experience. We also welcome your feedback. Is there any other theme you would like to see in church? What visual art helps you as you worship on Sunday morning? We also invite anyone interested in visual arts to join us. Feel free to talk to Pastor John for details.

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## New Church Banner

A year ago, the Church Cabinet had a desire to make our beliefs more public. A Cabinet member showed us a church banner developed by the U.C.C. that many churches have put up on their buildings. It seemed like a good idea to us, but we thought it might be better to come up with a banner that specifically expressed who we were and what we believed as a community of faith. This started a year-long process of discernment for the Cabinet. We looked at the core beliefs and values that our church developed a few years ago. We felt the banner should reflect our new mission statement as well. Finally, we came to consensus in June. We are pleased to put this banner up in the church, as a witness to all in Bedford and beyond, about who we are as church: our beliefs, values and priorities. Many thanks to our Moderator, Terry Gerrish, for guiding us through this process and for getting the banner made. We welcome your thoughts and feedback on the banner. Feel free to talk to John, Terry, or any other member of the Church Cabinet.

## First Church Logo Shirts

Ever since we developed our new Logo, people have been asking about shirts and other items with our new look. At last, both polo shirts and t-shirts with our new mission statement and fish logo have arrived. They come in white, with the colored logo on the breast. The polo shirts are a short-sleeve, collared, poly/cotton blend. The t-shirts are a white, short-sleeved, all-cotton shirt.

If you ordered a First Church T-Shirt or Polo Shirt with our new logo, feel free to drop by Pastor John's office during office hours or on Sunday to pick up your shirt. Just check you name off the list and pick up your shirt!

For those who did not order a shirt but still want one, there is good news: we did order a few more of both types. Once all those who ordered shirts have claimed them, we will be offering them to all interested. T-shirts cost \$15 and polo shirts cost \$25. If you are interested, let Pastor John know.

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## Wonderful Wednesday Returns

We are looking forward to another great year of Wonderful Wednesdays at First Church. As usual, the evenings begins at 6:00 p.m. with a delicious dinner with friends (\$5 donations when we don't have a potluck) and then continues with an interesting program at 7 p.m. Our Wonderful Wednesdays will begin on September 19<sup>th</sup> with a Potluck Dinner. Feel free to bring either a casserole, salad or dessert.

Future Wonderful Wednesdays are scheduled for:

October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>  
November 7<sup>th</sup>  
December 5<sup>th</sup>  
January 16<sup>th</sup>  
February 6<sup>th</sup>  
March 20<sup>th</sup>  
April 3<sup>rd</sup>  
May 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>

If anyone would like to join one of the four teams responsible for providing meals for Wonderful Wednesday, feel free to talk to Pastor John, and we'd be happy to get you involved.

## September Deacon's Offering

on September 2, 2018 is for:

### Doctors without Borders



### 8:15 Group

The 8:15 Group will begin it's Fall season on September 16. This year we are focusing on forgiveness and the first book will be Healing Agony - Re-Imagining Forgiveness by Stephen Cherry. Forgiveness is something that most of us struggle to understand and to accomplish so it should be a study that we hope will be helpful to everybody. We welcome anyone who would like to try the group either by coming at 8:15 on Sunday morning for breakfast or at 8:45 to participate in the discussion. Come and see if you like it; if it doesn't work out that's fine, but you might find you enjoy it. For any other information please contact Pat Konkle at 781-425-7912 or [kpkonk@verizon.net](mailto:kpkonk@verizon.net)



## Flowers for Sunday Worship

Enjoy the beauty of your and others' donations each week as a beautiful part of our worship together. Flowers may be donated in memory of a loved one or just because the Spirit moves you! We will order flowers for you unless you prefer to do it yourself. The cost varies depending on choices but runs \$30-50. There is a signup sheet in the Vestry on the bulletin board, or you may contact Betsy Cogliano at 781-275-9462 or at [laxmom5@aol.com](mailto:laxmom5@aol.com) or signup online at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20foe49aaab22a6f49-flowers1>



## Coffee Hour

Is making coffee a Ministry? Absolutely! Coffee hour after church is as important as anything else we do as a church. Where else do you get to check in with your church friends, deepen your relationships and create a stronger sense of "joyful fellowship?" Please sign up to help on the bulletin board in the Vestry or online at this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20foe49aaab22a6f49-sundays>

## Music Notes

**Words Take on New Life When Sung:** Ella Fitzgerald once said, “The only thing better than singing is more singing!” The Adult Choir, having enjoyed summer break, is ready to start up again. There are so many beautiful pieces that fit with this year’s worship themes, that also happen to suit the unique voices in our small ensemble. One of our next steps is to discover how harmony works most advantageously in our arrangements and how it can bring text to life. Some Sundays, we’ll be accompanied by instruments other than piano. If you love to sing, stop by one of our rehearsals to enjoy making music with us! The first choir rehearsal is Thursday, September 6 at 7:30 pm.

**Ringers Ready, Jazzed by Summer:** Each Monday was a different experience at Summer Bell Camp. There were quartets played by 7, quintets rung with just 4, pieces where ringers sight-read almost every position, and everything in between. We discovered a piece so beautiful that it absolutely must be played this year! The ringers are eagerly anticipating a very special June 2019 Area One Handbell Conference. In the past, we’ve played several pieces in church by our favorite handbell composers Moglebust and McChesney - who also happen to be this year’s clinicians! Many of the handbell pieces you’ll hear in church this year are pieces we’ll play at that conference. The first Jubilee Ringers rehearsal is Monday, September 10 at 7 pm.

### September Music Schedule:

- **September 6, Thursday 7:30 pm** - Adult Choir rehearsal
- **September 9, Sunday 9:00 am** - Adult Choir mini-rehearsal
- **September 10, Monday 7:00 pm** - Jubilee Ringers rehearsal
- **September 13, Thursday 7:30 pm** - Adult Choir rehearsal
- **September 16, Sunday 9:00 am** - Adult Choir mini-rehearsal
- **September 17, Monday 7:00 pm** - Jubilee Ringers rehearsal
- **September 20, Thursday 7:30 pm** - Adult Choir no rehearsal (Wonderful Wednesday week)
- **September 23, Sunday 9:00 am** - Adult Choir mini-rehearsal
- **September 24, Monday 7:00 pm** - Jubilee Ringers rehearsal
- **September 27, Thursday 7:30 pm** - Adult Choir rehearsal
- **September 30, Sunday 9:00 am** - Adult Choir mini-rehearsal
- **October 1, Monday 7:00 pm** - Jubilee Ringers rehearsal

~ Susan Caestro, Director of Music

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## Women’s Fellowship: Ice Cream & Planning

First Church Women’s Fellowship/Soul Sisters (WFSS) will begin our new programming year with an ice cream social and planning meeting at **7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 25**, in the Vestry.

Please join us as we socialize over ice cream sundaes, then roll up our sleeves and brainstorm ideas for 2018-19 WFSS monthly meetings. Is there a topic you would like to explore? A good cause you might like us to support? A fun idea for a get-together? All ideas are welcome.

Bring your calendars, and any and all program ideas for the group to consider. All church women are invited- – and feel free to bring a friend!

~ Allyson Printz ([allyson@printzfamily.us](mailto:allyson@printzfamily.us))

~ Kathy Register ([registerk11@gmail.com](mailto:registerk11@gmail.com))

## **Blessed to be a blessing**

This year in Sunday School and church we will explore the web of blessings in which God holds us throughout of lives. In ancient Israel to be blessed meant to have God's favor (as when God blessed Abraham, and promised through him to bless all people). In the Gospel of Luke Jesus tells us it is the poor, the hungry and those who mourn who have God's particular blessing because they will be fulfilled in God's realm. Always, blessings are intended not just for the recipient but as a way of extending God's love to others as well.

We will bless things that represent important aspects of our lives, and the work we do in our world: bags and backpacks in September, animals in October, and of course food in November. If you want to suggest people, events, efforts or other things we might be called to bless, feel free to speak with Kate Byers.

### **Blessing of the Bags (Backpacks)**

Bring your bag with you to worship on **September 9<sup>th</sup>**. From diaper bags, to back packs, to gym bags, suitcases, tote bags, purses and briefcases, we all carry bags or have bags carried for us. These bags carry the tools we need for daily living and allow us to do many wonderful things. Bring your bag with you to worship on September 9<sup>th</sup> so we can bless the bag and the work empowered by your bag.

### **Blessing of the animals**

**Saturday, October 14 2:00 - 3:00, pm** First Church front parking lot (rain date October 21) In caring for the animals in our lives, we honor God's love for all of creation. Bring your furred, feathered or finned companions, extend the welcome to friends and their pets too, and join us as we celebrate this beloved and centuries old tradition.

### **Blessed to be a Blessing Retreat**

This winter our 3rd annual All Church Family Retreat will focus around what it means to be blessed and how we can live our blessings out in ways that bless others. It is sure to be a meaningful weekend or fun, community, and spiritual growth. Stay tuned for more details.

## **Sunday School classes begin September 9th!**

This year, all ages will explore how we are “blessed to be a blessing” and enjoy stories from Luke's Gospel, through cooking, art, drama, games and science based lessons in our Spark curriculum. To best meet the needs of our current children and youth, Sunday School will be a little different this year.

Everyone will start Sunday School Together! At the start of each week, we will meet together as a big group. This will give us time to gather and focus as a group either shifting the energy either from worship to Sunday school or on communion Sundays from home to Sunday school. Once gathered and focused, children will split into preschool, elementary school, and youth groups. Sometimes age groups will meet separately, and sometimes we will stay as a multi-age group. Either way children and youth will be engage in age appropriate activities and reflection with their peers.

### **In September:**

We will start the year with a lesson on Blessings as we regroup from summer, and lay the foundation for a new church program year. This week all ages will meet together in lower fellowship hall for the majority of the class. September 16, 23, and 30 we will introduce our year long focus on the Gospel of Luke. Our first unit from Luke will be focused on discipleship. We will learn about the disciples and about Jesus call to the disciples. We will also explore the ways we are called to be disciples and what it means to be a disciple in 2018/2019.

### **Register**

Print or detach the registration form in the center of this newsletter and bring it with you on September 9th! Enjoy a cookout and outdoor games after Sunday School and worship.

### **Teach**

Would you like to work with our children this year? Nurture is looking for nursery volunteers, Sunday School Teachers, and youth group unit leaders. There are lots of big and small ways to help our children and youth grow in faith. Let Kate know what you might be interested in doing.

## Programs for our youth: Think Outside Sunday Morning

### Preschool and Elementary

#### **Visit Great Brook Farm**

**Sunday, September 30** (for time see emails and ConCon in early September)

As we wrapped up our prayer unit, the children talked about the ways they connect with God. Many of our children connect with God through nature, animals, and caring for creation. This fall Nurture wants to put our conversation in action. We will head to Great Brook Farm for an afternoon of animals, nature, and creating care, and ice cream. In addition to tying to last year's Sunday school lesson we will make connections to this year's theme as we look forward to blessing our own animals.

#### **Baking night**

Early November - watch for emails and ConCon notices

### Middle School and High School

This year our older youth will explore questions central to life and faith, in four units organized around a central event with meetings before and after for learning and reflection. Each unit will be a distinctive focus running for about 4 consecutive weeks. The first few weeks we will meet at church for dinner and programming as we prep for a "big activity." The third week will be a more time intensive/exciting activity. Our final week will be a wrap up session where we reflect over food on what we have done and learned. Youth and their families are invited to commit to the units that work for them. This year our units are:

#### **Getting oriented: What should guide our lives?**

Youth will spend time exploring the bible, prayer, and community as tools for discernment/guidance. Then we will go on a geocaching adventure where we practice using electronic tools as guidance. Our final session will encourage youth to think deeply about the ways our faith guides our life. This unit will cover 4 weekends in October and November.

#### **Finding identity: Who are we?**

Youth and their parents will spend a few weeks talking about our identity as children of God. We will try to figure out what it means to be a child of God and how that plays into so many different aspects of our identity. The big event for the unit will be a lock-in in full of learning, games, and fun. This unit will meet mid January to mid February. For the three dinner and programming meetings parents are encouraged to attend with their youth. Some of the unit will involve everyone talking together. There will also be opportunities for parents and youth to meet separately.

#### **Seeking social justice: What are we called to do?**

Our March unit will focus on an overnight trip into Boston with City Reach where youth will work with people experiencing homelessness to serve the homeless community of Boston. The prep meetings will encourage youth to think about homelessness and about mission through relationship.

#### **Caring for the earth: How are we called to live?**

Shortly after Easter and Earth Day, youth will spend 4 weeks thinking about environmental justice. The big event for this unit will be an overnight camping trip in May.

Watch for emails and ConCon notices with more specific details!

## Faith at Home

Two years ago, I read *I Wonder: Engaging a Child's Curiosity about the Bible* by Elizabeth F. Caldwell and reflected on helping kids develop life-long spiritual practices. We started talking about this book as a congregation but never got too far. As we focus this year on the Book of Luke, I would like us to also focus on reading the bible, and ways we can read the bible in our families. Caldwell says children learn to read the Bible by having the Bible read to them and by seeing their parents read the Bible. These sound like very simple things but in practice they can be very challenging. While thinking about helping our children read the Bible, I couldn't help but think about Bible reading in my own home. 2 years ago, I was failing miserably at both of Caldwell's simple tasks. I rarely read the Bible to Ruth. She had a children's Bible and multiple Bible Story books but they were chosen bed time stories less than once a week. Some of this was due to Ruth's age. Two year olds are not known for their attention spans and the children's Bible has more words than pictures. Most of my failure was due to a litany of modern parenting challenges. I could list the challenges for you but I am sure you know them already. Two years later I have kind of made progress on the bible reading front. Ruth regularly asks us to read her the Spark StoryBible. It is frequently part of our daily reading. I have not gotten any better at reading the bible to a two year old. Jacob's exposure to the Bible is no greater than Ruth's was.

Two years ago, I was a little surprised to realize I have not been reading the Bible to Ruth. I was even more surprised by my failure to model the spiritual practice. I read the Bible every day, multiple times a day. Sometimes I read for my own spiritual practice other times I read in preparation for Church School. Most days I am reading for a combination of reasons. It seemed like my child seeing me read the Bible would be an everyday occurrence but it was not and still is not. If anything my kids see be reading the bible even less now than they did two years ago. With the two of them it is just that much harder to do anything productive with them around.

Teaching children about God is my job and yet Caldwell's two simple practices were not and

are not natural practices for me. I assume they are also not natural for you. So let's restart our journey together this year. Let's work together to develop spiritual practices for ourselves and our kids.

September is the beginning of our journey. All I want you to do this month is to think about your current practices. Do your children read the Bible? Do you read the Bible with your kids? If so how frequently? Do you read the Bible? If so do your kids know you read the Bible? Have they ever seen you read scripture? Is scripture reading happening the same way it was two years ago or have there been changes?

Think about the scripture reading that happens or doesn't happen at your house. Then think about your family's secular reading. When does your family read? What do you read? What mediums do you use? Do your kids ever see you read secular material? Jot down a few notes about your family's current reading practices. This is not meant to be a judgmental activity. I don't want you to feel badly about your current practices. After all, we all know I am not good at this. I just want you to become aware of how things are currently. This will provide a starting place and a benchmark. We can't move forward until we know where we are. So spend September figuring out your family's current scripture reading practices.

~ Kate Byers

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## In the Library

The church has a wonderful selection of books in our Library. There are books for people of all ages and all stages of faith development. Topics range from Bible stories to books on grief and loss (for all ages). If you haven't been in the library recently, I encourage you to take a look. My guess is you will find a book that meets a current spiritual need. To encourage our children to use the library books, there is a small bookshelf outside the sanctuary door. The children's books in this bookshelf rotate throughout the year. Right now this bookshelf is stocked with books about blessing, fall, and New Testament stories. Hopefully this will provide your family with a few tools to connect Church School to home.

## Nurture's Summer Wrap Up

This summer Nurture planned, a play group for kids 0-5, a trip to the beach, a family movie night, and a back yard cook out. Most of these events were designed to be low key outdoor summer fun. All of them were designed to bring people together in community.

Play group was successful. Six different children and their parents gathered in lower fellowship hall. We played in the Red Sea (a wading pool full of red water), we made a storm and rock animals back and forward with a parachute, we visited the town playground, and we spent a lot of time cooking in the play kitchen. Rain or shine we were able to have fun while parents and children connected with each other.

Our other summer events were significantly impacted by this summer's weather. The beach trip got postponed due to Thunder Storm threats. The movie night got moved inside due to rain and our cook out was canceled due to oppressive heat and humidity. The rescheduled beach trip provided perfect beach weather. Good Harbor Beach provided powerful waves and a tidal river. Children from 4 to 14 played in the waves and spent some time connecting with their parents.

While it was not our most successful summer, it was a summer of learning for Nurture. Next summer we hope to focus on fewer more weather forgiving activities that occur earlier in the summer. Fortunately we have time to figure out exactly what that will be. For now, we are onto a full and fun program year.

## 68 Annual Strawberry Festival Thanks

The 68th annual Strawberry Festival was held on Flag Day, Thursday, June 14, 2018 from 6 to 8 p.m. American flags proudly donned Great Road and we continued with flags decorating throughout the Strawberry Festival along with red-white-blue decorations. They added to the evening making it a very old fashion home town Americana feel.

The weather was mild and a bit cooler than it had it been. We had many new and familiar faces enjoying the strawberry shortcake, chocolate sundaes, and music. There was chalk art drawn by the children and some games for them to play. Once again, we were entertained by the delightful piano playing of Ben Knight. Many lingered longer listening and enjoying the evening.

Approximately 370 regular and 10 gluten free homemade biscuits were baked by Allyson Printz, Jennifer Dalrymple, and Laura Mock. The homemade fudge sauce was made by Connie Matheson and Nancy McKinney. Thank you to the 64 volunteers who were willing to hull strawberries, the servers, kitchen help, cashiers, runners and set-up/takedown people and of course the cleanup crew. A special thank you to Pastor John for shopping for the items; Allyson Printz for arranging for the music and children's activities; Judy Watkins for getting the kitchen running and Micky Webber for a donation.

Sales totaled \$ 2,811.96, with expenses of \$ 1,446.18 which left \$ 1,365.78 profit. The proceeds will be for the First Church local ministry.

### Looking For Kate Byers?

Outside of Sunday morning, this year you can find me in the church office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 2pm. You will also be able to find me at church meetings, nurture programming, and all kinds church events. Please don't hesitate to reach out, it person, by email, or by phone. If you have a quick question or need a quick reply, the best way to reach me is by my cell phone. It is almost always with me. I can almost always answer a phone call or a text message.

- ◆ My phone number is: 617-800-7151
- ◆ My email is: [kathryn.byers@gmail.com](mailto:kathryn.byers@gmail.com)



### With Sympathy

to Jane Gaylord on the passing  
of Richard (Dick) Gaylord  
on July 22, 2018  
in St. Petersburg, FL

### Donations Received

#### General Fund

In Memory of Cindy Webb  
Charlotte Christen  
Ken & Pat Konkle

## Daily Lectionary Scripture References September 2018 (Year B)

**Sat., Sept. 1**

Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9  
Hosea 3:1-5  
John 18:28-32

**Sun., Sept. 2**

Song of Solomon 2:8-13  
Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9  
James 1:17-27  
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

**Mon., Sept. 3**

Psalm 144:9-15  
Song of Solomon 3:6-11  
1 Timothy 4:6-16

**Tues., Sept. 4**

Psalm 144:9-15  
Song of Solomon 5:2-6:3  
1 Peter 2:19-25

**Wed., Sept. 5**

Psalm 144:9-15  
Song of Solomon 8:5-7  
Mark 7:9-23

**Thurs., Sept. 6**

Psalm 125  
Proverbs 1:1-19  
Romans 2:1-11

**Fri., Sept. 7**

Psalm 125  
Proverbs 4:10-27  
Romans 2:12-16

**Sat., Sept. 8**

Psalm 125  
Proverbs 8:1-31  
Matthew 15:21-31

**Sun., Sept. 9**

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23  
Psalm 125  
James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17  
Mark 7:24-37

**Mon., Sept. 10**

Psalm 73:1-20  
Proverbs 8:32-9:6  
Hebrews 11:29-12:2

**Tues., Sept. 11**

Psalm 73:1-20  
Proverbs 11:1-31  
Hebrews 12:3-13

**Wed., Sept. 12**

Psalm 73:1-20  
Proverbs 14:1-9  
Matthew 17:14-21

**Thurs., Sept. 13**

Psalm 19  
Proverbs 15:1-17  
Hebrews 11:17-22

**Fri., Sept. 14**

Psalm 19  
Proverbs 19:24-29  
James 2:17-26

**Sat., Sept. 15**

Psalm 19  
Proverbs 21:1-17  
Matthew 21:23-32

**Sun., Sept. 16**

Proverbs 1:20-33  
Psalm 19 *or* Wisdom 7:26-8:1  
James 3:1-12  
Mark 8:27-38

**Mon., Sept. 17**

Psalm 73:21-28  
Proverbs 22:1-21  
Romans 3:9-20

**Tues., Sept. 18**

Psalm 73:21-28  
Proverbs 25:1-28  
Colossians 3:1-11

**Wed., Sept. 19**

Psalm 73:21-28  
Proverbs 29:1-27  
John 7:25-36

**Thurs., Sept. 20**

Psalm 1  
Proverbs 30:1-10  
1 Corinthians 2:1-5

**Fri., Sept. 21**

Psalm 1  
Proverbs 30:18-33  
Romans 11:25-32

**Sat., Sept. 22**

Psalm 1  
Ecclesiastes 1:1-18  
Matthew 23:29-39

**Sun., Sept. 23**

Proverbs 31:10-31  
Psalm 1  
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a  
Mark 9:30-37

**Mon., Sept. 24**

Psalm 128  
Proverbs 27:1-27  
James 4:8-17

**Tues., Sept. 25**

Psalm 128  
Ecclesiastes 4:9-16  
James 5:1-6

**Wed., Sept. 26**

Psalm 128  
Ecclesiastes 5:1-20  
John 8:21-38

**Thurs., Sept. 27**

Psalm 124  
Esther 1:1-21  
Acts 4:13-31

**Fri., Sept. 28**

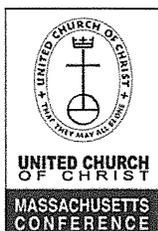
Psalm 124  
Esther 2:1-23  
Acts 12:20-25

**Sat., Sept. 29**

Psalm 124  
Esther 3:1-15  
Matthew 5:13-20

**Sun., Sept. 30**

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22  
Psalm 124  
James 5:13-20  
Mark 9:38-50



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~ September 2018 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> 6a AA (UFH)
<b>2</b> COMMUNION 6a AA (UFH) 9:30a Summer Worship (Koebele Music Chapel)	<b>3</b> Labor Day Office Closed 6a AA (UFH)	<b>4</b> 6a AA (UFH) 6:45p AA (Room 5) 7p Masons (LFH)	<b>5</b> 6a AA (UFH) 7a Men's Group (Vestry)	<b>6</b> 6a AA (UFH) 7:30p AA (UFH) 7:30p Adult Choir (Music Room)	<b>7</b> Pastor John Day Off 6a AA (UFH) 6:30p AA (UFH)	<b>8</b> 6a AA (UFH)
<b>9</b> HOMECOMING 6a AA (UFH) 9a Adult Choir Mini-Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 10a Worship (Sanctuary) 11a Homecoming Picnic (Outside/UFH)	<b>10</b> 6a AA (UFH) 7p Jubilee Ringers (Music Room)	<b>11</b> 6a AA (UFH) 7:30a Women's Fellowship Breakfast (Riverview-Billerica) 6:45p AA (Room 5) 7p Cabinet (Vestry) 7p Masons (LFH)	<b>12</b> 6a AA (UFH) 7a Men's Group (Vestry)	<b>13</b> 6a AA (UFH) 8a Bible and Bagels (Bruegger's) 9a Coffee and Conversation (Bruegger's) 7:30p AA (UFH) 7:30p Adult Choir (Music Room)	<b>14</b> Pastor John Day Off 6a AA (UFH) 6:30p AA (UFH)	<b>15</b> 6a AA (UFH)
<b>16</b> 6a AA (UFH) 8:15a 8:15 Group (Vestry) 9a Adult Choir Mini-Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 10a Worship (Sanctuary)	<b>17</b> 6a AA (UFH) 7p Jubilee Ringers (Music Room)	<b>18</b> 6a AA (UFH) 9a Bedford Recreation Gymnastics (LFH) 6p Masons (UFH/K/LFH) 6:45p AA (Room 5)	<b>19</b> 6a AA (UFH) 7a Men's Group (Vestry) 6p Wonderful Wednesday (UFH/K/V)	<b>20</b> 6a AA (UFH) 8a Bible and Bagels (Bruegger's) 9a Coffee and Conversation (Bruegger's) 7:30p AA (UFH)	<b>21</b> Pastor John Day Off 6a AA (UFH) 9a Bedford Recreation Gymnastics (LFH) 6:30p AA (UFH)	<b>22</b> BEDFORD DAY 6a AA (UFH)
<b>23</b> 6a AA (UFH) 8:15a 8:15 Group (Vestry) 9a Adult Choir Mini-Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 10a Worship (Sanctuary)	<b>24</b> 6a AA (UFH) 7p Jubilee Ringers (Music Room)	<b>25</b> 6a AA (UFH) 9a Bedford Recreation Gymnastics (LFH) 6:45p AA (Room 5) 7p Women's Fellowship (Vestry) 7:30p NAMI (Room 4)	<b>26</b> 6a AA (UFH) 7a Men's Group (Vestry)	<b>27</b> 6a AA (UFH) 8a Bible and Bagels (Bruegger's) 9a Coffee and Conversation (Bruegger's) 7:30p AA (UFH) 7:30p Adult Choir (Music Room)	<b>28</b> Pastor John Day Off 6a AA (UFH) 9a Bedford Recreation Gymnastics (LFH) 6:30p AA (UFH)	<b>29</b> 6a AA (UFH)
<b>30</b> 6a AA (UFH) 8:15a 8:15 Group (Vestry) 9a Adult Choir Mini-Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 10a Worship (Sanctuary)						

**Sunday Worship 10:00 am  
in the Sanctuary**

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**Church Office Hours:** Mon-Fri 9:00 am-3:00 pm  
**Church Office Phone:** 781-275-7951  
**Church Office Fax:** 781-275-4063  
**Church Office Email:** fchurchb2@verizon.net  
**Website:** www.firstchurchbedford.org

**Senior Pastor:** The Reverend John Castricum  
 cell phone: 857-939-0711  
**Director of Christian Nurture:** Kate Byers  
**Music Director:** Susan Capestro

~ September Worship ~

|              |          |                                                     |
|--------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| September 2  | 9:30 am  | Koebele Music Chapel                                |
|              |          | <i>The Rhythm of God</i>                            |
|              |          | Psalm 150                                           |
| September 9  | 10:00 am | Sanctuary                                           |
|              |          | <i>Journey with Luke: Dear Theophilus</i>           |
|              |          | Luke 1: 1-14                                        |
| September 16 | 10:00 am | Sanctuary                                           |
|              |          | <i>Journey with Luke: A Prophet in His Hometown</i> |
|              |          | Luke 4: 14-29                                       |
| September 23 | 10:00 am | Sanctuary                                           |
|              |          | <i>Journey with Luke: Follow Me</i>                 |
|              |          | Luke 5: 1-11                                        |
| September 30 | 10:00 am | Sanctuary                                           |
|              |          | <i>Journey with Luke: The Faith of Friends</i>      |
|              |          | Luke 5: 17-26                                       |

Thank you for your help in publishing our newsletter on time. Our next Newsletter deadline is **September 10, 2018**. Our next mailing is **September 26, 2018**. Please send you email articles to: fchurchb2@verizon.net. Thank you.

Please let us know if you change your address.  If you do not want to receive newsletters, check this box and mail this page to us at the above address or email the office at fchurchb2@verizon.net.

Join us for Homecoming Sunday  
 On Sunday, September 9  
 Worship 10:00 am  
 All Church Photo 11:15 am  
 Church Picnic 11:30 am



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 25 The Great Road  
 Bedford, MA 01730-2192  
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**First Church of Christ, Congregational, in Bedford  
Children & Youth Registration Form 2018-2019**

Name of Child # 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

School Attends: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in School: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or other special conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

Prescription Medications (such as inhaler): \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, my child has permission to administer his/herself?

List other conditions or issues for your child that could affect learning and participation:

Would you like someone to contact you so that you can explain in more detail?

Name of Child # 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

School Attends: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in School: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or other special conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

Prescription Medications (such as inhaler): \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, my child has permission to administer his/herself ?

List other conditions or issues for your child that could affect learning and participation:

Would you like someone to contact you so that you can explain in more detail?

Name of Child # 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

School Attends: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in School: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or other special conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

Prescription Medications (such as inhaler): \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, my child has permission to administer his/herself ?

List other conditions or issues for your child that could affect learning and participation:

Would you like someone to contact you so that you can explain in more detail?

Name of Child #4: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

School Attends: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in School: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or other special conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

Prescription Medications (such as inhaler): \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, my child has permission to administer his/herself ?

List other conditions or issues for your child that could affect learning and participation:

Would you like someone to contact you so that you can explain in more detail? \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Turn Over**

Name of **Parent/Guardian #1**: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of **Parent/Guardian #2**: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Tell us about your family. (i.e. who should be included in communication about church school and youth group? Who can pick up your children from the nursery, church school, and youth group)

**Permission for Using Pictures:**

First Church of Christ Congregational has my permission to use pictures of my child/children (under age 18) in various media – web, newsletter, emails, etc. In general there will be no identifying information with the picture. I understand that I will be asked ahead of time to give my ok, if under special circumstances the church wishes to use identifying info.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

**Parent/Guardian Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_